



F. Philip Prelli  
Commissioner

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Tel: (860) 713-2500  
Fax: (860) 713-2514

## Testimony Regarding Department of Agriculture Deficiency Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is F. Philip Prelli and I am Connecticut's Commissioner of Agriculture and I thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

Last year the "other expense" account in our appropriated budget was reduced approximately 50% to \$400,000. Every effort was made to keep our expenses at a minimum including having the Agriculture Commissioner sign off on every General Fund Expense and using "Special Funds" to pay these expenses where appropriate. I need to emphasize that our Agency's main function is regulatory and many times this calls for expenses that are unanticipated. An example would be the seizure of over 60 animals in 2 raids in a two month period due to cruelty and neglect. These animals need veterinary services and supplies including food that far exceed the income received from their future sale. Other examples would be the need for testing supplies at our Aquaculture lab and ongoing boat expenses to allow for the operation of our shellfish program in Long Island Sound.

We will continue to ensure that all expenses made by the Agency are still a truly needed expense and require a sign off by the Commissioner.

Again, thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify and I will gladly answer any questions.